

COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

July 2007

National Awards Honor County Efforts to Serve San Diego

Last year the County of San Diego set a personal record of 41 awards at the annual Achievement Awards competition sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard praised employees, but added the challenge to staff to “continue coming up with great ideas to better serve the public.”

When the winners of the 2007 competition were announced in June, the County found itself in a familiar place—once again San Diego led the nation with 41 programs recognized.

This was the third straight year that San Diego had earned the highest number of awards, but the gap between the County and its competition widened substantially. Los Angeles County received the second-most recognition, winning 28 Achievement Awards.

The winning programs, which span all five groups within the organization, were recognized for being innovative and successful, and for promoting quality, efficiency and a responsive county government.

NACo started the Achievement Awards program in 1970 to recognize superior and innovative county government pro-

grams. This year, 97 counties in 27 states participated. The awards will be presented to County representatives at NACo's annual conference in Richmond, Virginia in July.

A complete list of winners is available on the [NACo website](#).



Do these County employees have unusual taste in eyewear or is this the work of a secret admirer?

Unravel the mystery and learn who says “SOC ROCKS” on p. 3 of County News!

Employees Help Community through Charitable Giving

The spirit of giving is alive and well at the County.

On the heels of the 50th anniversary of the County Employees Charitable Organization (CECO) last September, the County launched its combined giving campaign to raise funds for the community programs supported by CECO and the United Way of San Diego. Employees responded by increasing pledged donations 14 percent for the upcoming year.

“This combined giving campaign is an enduring testament to the commitment of County employees,” says Jean Shepard, County campaign chair and director of the Health and Human Services Agency. “We impact lives in our community not only through our work, but through our generosity in supporting these two organizations.”

Goals for the fall campaign were based on employee giving as of July 2006. At that time, employees were contributing just over \$300,000 to the two organizations. By the end of the campaign, a pledge to raise more than \$350,000 in the coming year had been made.

The CECO/United Way campaign is unique in that it pairs two different charitable organizations into one extensive employee outreach. Each helps the local community, but in a slightly different way.



Organizations apply to CECO for specific funding, whether it's furniture for a facility, medications for kids and seniors, or sporting goods equipment for youth groups.

“Each year CECO receives more grant requests than we can possibly fill,” says CECO President Jennifer Uebbing, an employee with the Registrar of Voters. “This is a testimony to the level of need there is in our county.”

Staffed solely by County employees who volunteer their time to ensure all County employees have a choice in how they give back to their communities, Uebbing says every dollar collected by CECO is given out to non-profit organizations within San Diego County.

The United Way funds ongoing operational costs for programs that cover three areas of interest: stopping child abuse and neglect, homeless outreach and prevention, and equipping people with essential life skills.

The County is preparing to kick off its next giving campaign in the fall, but employees interested in showing their support do not have to wait until then. Contact campaign coordinator Patricia Honeycutt [via email](#) or at (619) 293-4708 for more information.

News Briefs

Homeless Court Garners Award

Deputy Public Defender Steve Binder has accepted the California Public Defender Association's "Defender Program of the Year" award for the Homeless Court Program. Binder, along with the Veterans Village of San Diego and St. Vincent de Paul, started the first Homeless Court Program in the nation 18 years ago.

The program is a special Superior Court session held at local homeless shelters for homeless defendants to voluntarily resolve outstanding misdemeanor criminal cases. The award was presented on May 18 at the Association's annual conference in San Francisco. The program was nominated by public defenders in Arizona, Colorado, Tennessee and Alameda Counties. Nominations noted that the Homeless Court Program enables defender offices "to meet the growing demands of homeless participants working with local service agencies."

Parks Presents Healthy Practices

Parks and Recreation (DPR) participated in the National Recreation and Parks Association's Health and Livability Summit in April. The purpose of the summit was to gather parks and recreation advocates together to address the nation's obesity epidemic. Christine Lafontant, Recreation Program Manager, presented at a session that highlighted the DPR's vending machine contents policy and provided tools and resources for participants interested in initiating similar policies in their communities.

DPR was also recognized as one of 37 agencies nationwide selected as a Step Up to Health Community for its work done to promote health and wellness in San Diego County. DPR's role in the Childhood Obesity Action Initiative, collaboration with groups such as the San Diego Nutrition Network, and the Trails Master Plan were all highlighted as some of the department's accomplishments. The summit provided an opportunity not only to share San Diego's best practices but also to learn what other communities across the nation are doing.

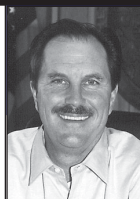
Literacy Program Celebrates New Center

The County Library's L.E.A.R.N. Adult Literacy Program (Libraries Empower All to Read Now) launched its North County Adult Learning Center with an open house on June 30 at the Vista banch library.

Learning Center staff manage the training of tutors for the adult literacy program, as well as the recruitment of new tutors and learners. The center also coordinates ESL (English as a Second Language) tutoring. In the ESL and Adult Literacy programs, tutors and learners meet in County Library branches at times convenient to both.

For more information, please see the [L.E.A.R.N. Web site](#).

See County News "Extra" for more NewsBriefs



In Walt's Words

Christmas in July?

Well, not exactly. Since there has been such a good response to my annual holiday trivia game in December, this month we're going to try a round of patriotic trivia. For those of you who are new to this, let me explain how it works.

All County employees are eligible to enter the contest. All you have to do is find the answers to the ten questions below and email your guesses to countynews@sdcounty.ca.gov. Answers must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, July 9. The winner will be the first person to correctly answer all of the questions, according to time-stamped email records. Speaking of time, please remember to conduct trivia research on your own, not during County working hours.

In return for indulging my fondness for trivia, I will personally deliver a delicious Fourth of July treat to the winner. During my visit, I will even entertain the office with a patriotic song. The winner will be photographed and featured in next month's issue of County News, along with the trivia answers.

I look forward to learning what you know –or can adeptly Google search—about our great country. Here's to life, liberty, and the trivial pursuit.

1. How many cities or towns in the United States are named "Freedom?"
2. From which overseas country did the largest number of tourists visit the United States last year?
3. How many future U.S. Presidents signed the Declaration of Independence?
4. What award was given to George M. Cohan, whose life was portrayed in the 1942 movie "Yankee Doodle Dandy?"
5. A vexillologist is an expert in what?
6. What phrase is engraved on the top of the Washington Monument?
7. What was the original name of "The Star Spangled Banner" and where was it composed?
8. Who famously said, "Give me liberty or give me death!"
9. After the British burned the Library of Congress in 1814, who replaced its inventory with his own private library collection?
10. What country singer released a song entitled "Independence Day?"

Walt

Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

Ergo Course Puts Office on 'Par' For Healthy Workplace

What started out as a well-intentioned prank quickly turned into a day-long health initiative at the Health and Human Services Agency's Immunization Branch. After discussing the merits of ergonomics at a staff meeting, the office's newly-assigned ergonomics representatives Christine Garcia and Pat Biritz wanted to ensure that their colleagues would not forget such valuable information.

To encourage everyone to stretch during the day, Garcia sent an office-wide email saying that there was cake in the lunch room; however, when they arrived employees instead found copies of an ergonomics guide with a sign: "There isn't a cake here, but while you're up, please take an ergonomic break and do stretches."

The office had a good laugh, and Garcia and Biritz decided to take their initiative one step further.

"We wanted to put ergonomics right in front of everyone so they wouldn't forget to stretch," says Garcia.

So, on May 23, with the help of Branch Chief Adrienne Yancey, they set up a series of 15 ergonomic stretching stations around their office at the County Health Services Complex. Each station featured instructions for stretching muscles that can be stressed and strained in everyday office work.

The goal of this "Ergonomics Par Course" was to remind the office's 50 staff members to take stretch breaks and avoid Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WRMSDs). Daily stress and strain can cause painful problems such as tendonitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, nerve compression and other WRMSDs according to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Immunization team members were pleased and impressed with the event:

"It was helpful to have reminders to stretch since we forget to stretch enough during the day," raved Anita Secor. "That was a great execution of ergonomic proportions!"

"Our number one priority is to ensure that we provide a safe and risk free environment for employees," says Human Resources Deputy Director Jan Mazone, who oversees the County's Work Safe/Stay Healthy program.

To help employees identify potential problems and make adjustments at their workstation before an injury occurs, Human Resources offers an online Office Ergonomics Self-Assessment Tool on the Intranet at http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dhr/Risk_Management/WorkSafe/Ergo_Training.html.

The County Ergonomic Evaluation Program recommends "frequent stretching/walking breaks" because "the human body wasn't designed to sit in one position for three or four hours."

Garcia observed that "When everyone takes ergonomics breaks regularly, the ultimate result is a healthier, happier and more productive office. Everybody benefits."

To learn more about workplace safety, visit the County's Work Safe/Stay Healthy program at http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dhr/Risk_Management/WorkSafe/index.html.



Enjoying their stretch break are staff members (left to right) Mildred Flores, Joyce Morgan, Carmen Phruksukarn and Mark Lindstrom.

Sweet Tooth With a Twist

For more than six months now, members of the Adult/Older Adult Mental Health System of Care (SOC) team in the Health and Human Services Agency have received attention from an anonymous "Candy Fairy."

Employees were pleasantly surprised to find a small box of Godiva chocolates on each of their desks one morning in January. The following month, they received custom M&M candies that read "SOC ROCKS." In March, they were given small pots of gold chocolate coins, along with a note from the Candy Fairy praising each employee's contributions to the office. Other treats have included chocolate candy bars imprinted with the phrase "Thank You" and personalized Post-It notes reading "SOC ROCKS."

"This has been a real morale builder and has kept us all guessing for months!" says Diane Layton.

Everyone's curiosity was further heightened in May, when a team lunch date was mysteriously added to the office calendar. An email from candyfairy@yahoo.com notified all employees that they would be served lunch on May 31, compliments of the Candy Fairy. That day, colorful T-shirts and eccentric sunglasses were delivered to the office with a note: "Mandatory Uniform for SOC Luncheon."



The SOC team at its "mandatory" luncheon.

The team enjoyed pizza, pasta, salad and breadsticks on the Garden Room patio at their Mission Valley office. There had been speculation that the Candy Fairy would be revealed at that time; but his or her secret identity is still under wraps.

"I would love to discover the mystery behind the Candy Fairy, but half the fun is not knowing!" says staffer Liz Miles. "Just knowing that one of my co-workers is so generous makes my job that much better."

Monica Parks (center) served in the Peace Corp, living two years in an impoverished village in Bolivia.



Peace Corps Volunteer Back Helping at Home

For some people, the thought of sleeping under a mosquito net for 27 months is untenable. Monica Parks is not one of those people.

Parks, a Public Health Nurse with the County since 2001, returned in January from spending two years on a Peace Corps mission in rural Bolivia. For 14 years she had considered the idea of volunteering abroad.

"I was afraid of getting sick, of being lonely, of finding the mission too difficult and having to come home and listen to people say, 'I told you so,'" says Parks. But finally, "The stars fell into place, and I just did it."

Parks received 11 weeks of Peace Corps training, including Spanish classes. She was then dropped off alone in the impoverished village of Valle de Concepcion. She had \$20 and a primary mission of educating its 200 families about health, nutrition and hygiene.

"I had visions of riding my bicycle through the jungle giving out immunizations left and right," laughs Parks. As it turned out, that was not nearly the case. Parks strove to teach people the basic merits of washing their hands before preparing food.

"It really was square one," she says. "The women thought I was crazy, insisting that there were 'bugs' all over our hands."

In addition to her health initiatives, Parks was able to pursue a secondary project of her

own choosing. Upon learning that the few children's books the community owned were locked away for fear that children's handling would ruin them, Parks successfully lobbied to make those books available. With books donated from family and friends in the U.S. she created an outdoor library. Every afternoon in the town plaza, she taught children not only how to read, but how to borrow and even hold books.

Even though she adored spending time with the children and made many friends, Parks admits that she was very lonely at times. Being away from her family and not having anyone to communicate with in English was difficult. Moreover, the two-years-plus obligation was draining.

Today, Parks is exuberant about her journey. She survived mosquitoes, electric showerheads and isolation. She effected significant change for a humble and deserving community.

There's been no slowing down since her return to the County; her work keeps her on the move non-stop. Her Spanish immersion while in Bolivia has allowed her to better serve the diverse population of County clients, and she sees a great comparison between her work in San Diego and her work in Valle de Concepcion:

"Both have allowed me to help others and make life-long friendships."

NEWSMAKERS

David Cranford was appointed as acting chief probation officer during the search for a permanent replacement. Cranford retired as the assistant chief probation officer in 2005 after more than 20 years in the department. He served the department as a part-time consultant the past two years.

Eric Gibson was appointed Interim Director of the Department of Planning and Land Use replacing Gary Pryor who

retired in June. Gibson will serve in this role while the Land Use and Environment Group undertakes a comprehensive organizational analysis of its land use and environmental review functions. Gibson joined the County sixteen years ago and has over 22 years of experience in land use and environmental issues. He has been a DPLU Deputy Director since 2003.

Louise Mathews was awarded the 2007 Medal of Distinction by the California

Peace Officers Association in recognition of her work as Chief of Food Services for the Sheriff's Department. Mathews, who retired in June, was the only non-sworn employee to be honored. An employee for 20 years, she helped design the central food production facility 15 years ago that still is known as "state of the art." The award cited her excellent service, innovative management and fiscal diligence during her long and meritorious career.

Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1
Dianne Jacob, District 2
Pam Slater-Price, District 3
Ron Roberts, District 4
Bill Horn, District 5

Chief Administrative Officer
Walter F. Ekard

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego. The newsletter is available online at www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dmpr

(click on "Employee Newsletter") or via the County's Intranet at CWW. This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

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Volume 29, No. 7 - July 2007

COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

County Staffers Ready for Roles at Comic Book Convention

By day, Luigi Diaz is a mild-mannered legal support assistant in Child Support Services.

But every summer, Diaz turns into a hero of sorts for thousands of comic-book, science fiction and pop culture lovers who attend San Diego's annual Comic-Con convention.

Diaz is responsible for ensuring that 1,500 volunteers staff the massive, four-day convention.

"I'm usually there Tuesday of the week and I leave on Sunday night," he said. "I usually take a day off after the con because my brain is literally Swiss cheese."

Diaz is just one of several County employees who play vital behind-the-scenes roles at the convention.

A San Diego tradition, Comic-Con is expected to attract more than 120,000 people when it takes place July 26-29 at the San Diego Convention Center.

Diaz will be there, just like he was at his first Comic-Con in 1984.

"I was like, wow, I'd never been to something like this," he recalled. "I never knew that many people liked comic books."

Diaz has been volunteering ever since. Now, 36, his volunteering duties have



Luigi Diaz is serious about his love for the Comic-Con Convention: he takes time off from his paid job at the County to donate his time coordinating convention volunteers.

ranged from providing security to stuffing registration bags. He has been volunteer coordinator since 1997.

Even though he has a high-ranking position within Comic-Con, Diaz does not get paid for his work. But he comes back year after year because of the opportunity to get together with friends he has met through the convention and "for the love of it."

"It's like keeping your childhood in a safe place," he said, of the convention.

Diaz even credits Comic-Con for getting his first County job—he used the volunteer application he created for Comic-Con to prove he met the criteria for the clerical position he eventually landed.

Like Diaz, Mary "Mikee" Ritter is another County employee who helps put on Comic-Con.

A medical supervisor in the Oceanside North Coastal Family Resource Center, Ritter runs the Comic-Con hospitality suite. Ritter is now in her 31st year of volunteering at Comic-Con.

She works long hours during the convention to make sure the suite remains open and is properly stocked - her shopping list includes 300 cases of sodas and more than 200 pounds of M&Ms.

Ritter, 47, also is grateful to Comic-Con because it introduced her to her husband, a fellow volunteer. Like Diaz, she also enjoys catching up with friends who attend the convention, including fellow County employees.

"I was pregnant one year," Ritter said. "My daughter is now 22. She's grown up at the convention."

NEWSMAKERS cont.

Penny Taylor, Youth Librarian at Santee, was honored for "Outstanding Achievement" at a May awards ceremony hosted by the Santee Collaborative, an organization dedicated to improving social and preventive service in Santee. Taylor was recognized for her outreach and programming

Reserve Deputy Probation Officers **Manny Oquenedo** and **Joseph Stone** received Channel 10 Achievement Awards for their work mentoring boys in the CA/WINGS program. CA/WINGS (an acronym for Community Assessment / Working to Insure and Nurture Girls Success) is a joint effort of the Probation Department and community-based organizations. Oquenedo and Stone spend more than 20 hours a month volunteering their time to teach boys life skills, career development, school achievement, and making good choices.



The ever-popular Ramona Airshow at the County's Ramona Airport celebrated its 13th anniversary June 23-24. The two-day air show featured about 25 aircraft and a number of aerial stunt performances. This year's show marks the airport's 50th year as an air-attack base. Proceeds from the event benefit families of aerial firefighters who have died on the job.

[Ver•ba•tim]

Leticia Hernandez (HHSA, Southeast FRC) was called a “model employee” by a client in response to the kindness she was shown during a home visit.

“She came into my home and was very respectful, and professionally prepared ... She is a delight to interact with, especially considering my own circumstances. She has always treated me with dignity and understanding.”

Edna Garcia (Auditor and Controller) was acknowledged by Human Resources staff member for being conscientious, professional and friendly.

“I just wanted to take a moment to express how positive each of [my interactions with Edna] interactions have been. Edna always quickly responds to my requests and goes out of her way to make herself available.”

Janet Miller (Health & Human Services Agency) was thanked for her courteous assistance over the phone.

“You are a shining example of the knowledge you are able to use to help people like me, and the ability to instruct me without making me feel incompetent. Please don’t ever leave.”

Mark Slovick (Planning and Land Use) received this compliment for helping a customer:

“Mark was especially helpful, guiding us in a friendly, competent and professional manner.”

Emile Gracia (Environmental Health) earned the gratitude of the City of Poway for her immediate assistance with a tenant issue.

“Emile was polite and professional when on the phone and was able to answer all of our questions.”

Divina Go (Health & Human Services Agency) was praised for her caring and professional approach to her job.

“Divina treats you with respect and adds that human touch that is missing in today’s world.”

Carolyn Garls and Javier Pena (HHSA, Northeast FRC) were thanked by a CalWORKS client for their prompt assistance.

“Expediting my cash aid helped me keep me and my children sheltered.”

Steve Binder (Public Defender) was praised by a Deputy Probation Officer as an inspiration and pioneer in his field for his work on the County’s Homeless Court.

“I have had extensive interactions with the San Diego Court system. I am pleased to say that my experience at the Homeless Court was the most pleasurable experience I have had to date. I was extremely impressed with the sensitivity and warmth the staff showed toward the clientele.”

Vu Duong (ARCC/Public Records) earned a letter of appreciation for exceeding one customer’s great expectations.

“Your voice mail states that customer service is your number 1 priority. Vu was and is a shining example of that priority in action. ...he is a valuable asset to your office and fulfilled your promise of customer service.”

Cris Espino (Child Support Services) earned the gratitude of a custodial parent.

“Cris Espino provided me with all the information I requested using a friendly and professional manner. I appreciated her willingness to assist me and provide me with complicated information that I requested. She is an asset to your department and should be commended for her efforts!”

Colleen Carr (Agriculture, Weights and Measures) received kudos from one of the Farm and Home Advisors.

“I wanted to tell you that I thought you made a very good presentation to the San Diego weed management area. It was very well organized and to the point. I appreciate that and whenever I need a speaker I will tap you on the shoulder.”

Krishna Franks (HHSA, Northeast FRC) received thanks from a grateful client.

“I was in your office and was in dire need of assistance and (Krishna) was extraordinarily helpful and an awesome worker.”

Steve Jonas and his team (Public Works, Cartographic Services) were sent a big “thanks” for the tremendous job they did on the Library’s new “READ” poster series.

“We’re already getting a phenomenal response to the posters, and will be exhibiting them throughout the County.”

Dawn Danielson and staff (Animal Services) were praised by a Councilmember of the City of Encinitas for extra time they gave to a Pet Health Expo.

“Ninety-two licenses were issued, 80 rabies vaccines given and 23 dogs micro-chipped. Your staff was efficient, professional and courteous. I am so proud of our County Animal Services Department.”

Chris Rhodeos (Environmental Health) was thanked by a homeowner for doing a thorough job on a rat inspection.

“I realize you are “doing your job”, but to me it is so much more than that. To get such a quick response to my request for an inspection, your expert assessment of my situation and the professional explanation of how to rectify the problem was, in my opinion, above and beyond.”

Jacqueline Luong (Health & Human Services Agency) was complimented for her kindness.

“She is very patient and very helpful...We need more people like her with people manners.”

News Briefs News Briefs cont.

Salute to Foster Family Heroes

In May, the County's Foster Home Licensing Program and its community partners celebrated San Diego's 1600 foster families in recognition of National Foster Care Month. The 46th Annual Foster Family Banquet honored 150 foster families on May 11 for their outstanding contribution to foster care. Representatives from the Board of Supervisors presented proclamations to the five Foster Parent Associations. Banquet awards included *Foster Family of the Year* and six regional *Above and Beyond* awards. Seven families received awards for serving as foster parents for twenty years or more.

On June 22, the San Diego County Fair honored foster parents at the Celebration of Heroes Exhibit. As part of the fair's theme "Salute to Heroes," foster parents were the featured heroes at the Celebration of Heroes Exhibit.

San Diego Recognized for Food Safety Program

The National Restaurant News recognized the County for its progressive food safety program. David Cohn, of the Cohn Restaurant Group in San Diego County, and Gary Erbeck, Environmental Health director, were interviewed by Restaurant News.

During the interview, Mr. Cohn stated that he views the food industry's relationship with DEH as a partnership and was appreciative of the industry being included in key policy decisions. He added, "I'm not saying there aren't conflicts, but it's not adversarial. I truly believe they're there to help."

San Pasqual Academy's Sixth Graduation

Twenty-four students at San Pasqual Academy received diplomas in a graduation ceremony honoring the Class of 2007 on June 21. Twenty students will be going on to four-year universities or community colleges.

In addition to a scholarships presentation, three graduates were recognized for excelling academically and in extracurricular pursuits, exhibiting outstanding citizenship, and making positive contributions to the Academy community. They each received a car.

San Pasqual Academy is the first-in-the-nation residential campus for adolescent foster youth. The facility opened in 2001 and is currently licensed for 136 foster youth.

Harry Potter-Palooza

The La Mesa branch library will host a Midnight Book Release Party celebrating the July 21 release of the final Harry Potter book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

A costume contest, magic show, crafts activities, and fortune-telling, will add to the night's excitement. At the stroke of midnight, customers will be able to get a copy of the seventh and final book in J.K. Rowling's magical Harry Potter series by winning one of 10 giveaway copies, by checking out a reserved copy, or by buying a copy from a local bookstore that will be at the library with a supply hot off the presses (\$29.99 plus tax).

For more about the gala and other Potter parties at branch libraries around the County, see the [Libraries Web site](#).

County Workers Gear Up for Bird Flu Response



In the parking lot of Environmental Health, employees from the County and their counterparts in Mexico donned full personal protective equipment (think white marshmallow suits with fashionable accessories like rubber gloves, goggles, respirators, and shoe covers) to practice responding to a wide range of bird flu emergency scenarios. The four-hour training prepared staff from DEH and Agriculture, Weights, and Measures to safely handle sick or dead birds infected with bird flu should it enter San Diego.

"Our goal is to train first responder staff so that they can safely and efficiently work to detect bird flu," says Dr. Nikos Gurfield, County Veterinarian. "Although they are practicing today on stuffed animals, one day it may be the real thing, and it is our goal to make certain that we are adequately prepared."

Asian bird flu, also known as highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1, has not yet been detected in the western hemisphere, but it is expected to reach San Diego eventually.

Four stations illustrating different scenarios with varying degrees of risk were designed for the training. Participants spent thirty minutes at each station with an instructor learning about required personal protective equipment (ppe) and appropriate ways to collect the sick or dead birds without contaminating themselves, their tools, or their environment.

"Our County is on the forefront of preparedness," says Dr. Gurfield. "The planning and training that we do today will prepare us for bird flu as well as other emerging diseases in the future."

The County's bird flu monitoring program and new diagnostic center were recently featured in *San Diego Magazine*. The new facility will be the first of its kind in the United States, housing both the offices of the County Veterinarian and the Medical Examiner, as well as departments of plant pathology, entomology, wildlife services and vector-borne diseases.

Don Bruders, Vector Control Technician with Environmental Health, prepares to don protective gear.

Service Awards

35 years

Susan M. Goodloe (Health & Human Services)
Conrad A. Grayson (Sheriff)

30 years

William R. Bailey (Health & Human Services)
Kenneth J. Brazell (Public Works)
Cesar M. Diosdado (Sheriff)
William F. Holland (Sheriff)
Harshal P. Salway (Public Works)
Benjamin Sevilla (Health & Human Services)
Gloria E. Verduzco (Health & Human Services)

25 years

John A. Pokorny (Sheriff)

20 years

Maribel T. Agapay (Health & Human Services)
Rex E. Anderson, Jr. (Sheriff)
Felipe D. Arce (Facilities Management)
John L. Aunan (Health & Human Services)
Cesario Avila III (Sheriff)
Lloyd J. Beckwith (Health & Human Services)
Thomas E. Bickhaus (Health & Human Services)
Christopher Blair (Probation)
James W. Bolwerk (Sheriff)
Deborah Kay Bond (Health & Human Services)
Robert Borntrager (Health & Human Services)
Ronald K. Brown (Sheriff)
Philip E. Brust (Sheriff)
Kathleen G. Bute (Public Works)
Shirley Y. Chin (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)
Michele R. Chism (Sheriff)
Laurent J. Comeau (Public Defender)
Mark A. Daves (Sheriff)
Kim A. Dinh (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)
Gail M. Espejo (Auditor & Controller)
Brian A. Estrella (Sheriff)
Pamela Francois (Planning & Land Use)
Irene F. Gomez (Health & Human Services)

Lisa M. Harris (Sheriff)
Kean D. Harvey (Sheriff)
Norma J. Heinz (Public Defender)
Connie M. Johnson (District Attorney)
Susan Judge (Sheriff)
Yolanda Kelly (District Attorney)
Binh T. Kieu (Health & Human Services)
Barbara E. Kiracofe (Health & Human Services)
Lauren J. Lee (Health & Human Services)
Victor Malof (Health & Human Services)
Daniel M. McClendon (Sheriff)
Eileen M. McNair (Health & Human Services)
Marta L. Mejia (Health & Human Services)
Rodolfo D. Munoz (Sheriff)
Lisa C. Ogle (District Attorney)
Macario G. Perez (Sheriff)
Sandra I. Pimentel (Environmental Health)
Genaro C. Ramirez (District Attorney)
Cecilia Redondo (Air Pollution Control)
Helen V. Regala (Health & Human Services)
Mercedes D. Reyes (Health & Human Services)
Brenna J. Ring (Library)
Isabelita S. Rullan (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)
Gayla D. Russ (Health & Human Services)
Sherri A. Sarro (Sheriff)
Wesley A. Semonchuk (Facilities Management)
Deborah A. Smith (Child Support)
Kenneth D. Smith (Sheriff)
Erlinda Sotto (Planning & Land Use)
Freddie M. Staples (Health & Human Services)
Christopher J. Thomas (Probation)
Zenaida Q. Tunay (Health & Human Services)
Catherine Turvey (Air Pollution Control)
James R. Vanfossen (Sheriff)
Sandra C. Vidrio (Health & Human Services)
Lorraine Villon (Health & Human Services)
Laura Vilorio (Health & Human Services)
Tammy A. Walker Bennetts (Sheriff)
Dale A. Weidenthaler (Sheriff)
Ann A. Yamada (Health & Human Services)

Retirements

Carol E. Bauer (Health & Human Services/Social Services)	Raymond H. Kramer (Health & Human Services)
Brian E. Brown (Probation)	Edward Krulikowski (Transportation)
Dennis H. Carrington (Planning & Land Use)	Roy Metzger, Jr. (Health & Human Services)
Edith L. Chapman (Health & Human Services)	Ellen M. Morales (Health & Human Services)
Bill E. Crawford (Health & Human Services)	Lenore I. Nieters (Health & Human Services)
John Demoura (Health & Human Services)	David A. Nunn (Sheriff)
Madonna M. Dempsey (Health & Human Services)	Charles G. Page (Municipal Court)
Lynne J. Diamond (Housing & Community Development)	Alicia J. Pfingst (District Attorney)
Scott E. Dittmyer (Public Defender)	John W. Rudick (Information Services)
Steven A. Escoboza (Health & Human Services)	Judy G. Selby (Health & Human Services/Social Services)
Laurie G. Feathers (Health & Human Services)	Jimmie L. Slack (Board of Supervisors)
Judith A. Flemming (Health & Human Services)	James M. Spsychalski (Public Works)
Lina Gomez (Environmental Health)	Emilia Trinidad (Health & Human Services)
Peggy L. Griffith (Health & Human Services)	Barbara A. Walther (Registrar of Voters)
Terry J. Hansen (Health & Human Services)	Jacqueline Walus-Wigle (Public Works)
David Hatch (Health & Human Services)	Thomas J. White (Public Defender)
Sandra K. Hunter (Health & Human Services)	Allan R. Wicks (Health & Human Services/Social Services)
Joyce E. Jones (Sheriff)	Victoria M. Williams-Eli (Information Services)
Timothy C. Kirchner (Planning & Land Use)	Carl A. Winters (Sheriff)
Dolores A. Kosmicki (Sheriff)	

In Memoriam

Linda H. Adams (Social Services, 2005)	3/07	Nancy D. Loehr (Parks & Recreation, 1996)	4/07
Arthur B. Babbitt (Health & Human Services, 2003)	4/07	Nonie Magadia (Health Services, 1966)	3/07
Elaine J. Baker (Social Services, 1983)	4/07	James C. McClain (Sheriff, 1998)	4/07
Charles B. Bye (Public Works, 1969)	4/07	Marjorie N. Morrisette (Revenue & Recovery, 1983)	4/07
Lyle W. Callahan (Public Works, 1988)	3/07	Curt Lee Owen (Public Defender, 2000)	4/07
Courtland Crandall (Social Services, 1982)	4/07	Wilfred F. Penner (Parks & Recreation, 1978)	4/07
Constance I. Elliott (Library, 1971)	4/07	Lorraine A. Poteet (Social Services, 1993)	4/07
Jeffrey J. Ellison (Health Services, 2000)	4/07	William A. Richardson, Jr. (District Attorney, 1987)	5/07
Margaret M. Fountain (Municipal Court, 1970)	4/07	George Saleebey (Probation, 1975)	4/07
Howard A. Krum (Probation, 1986)	4/07	Paula J. Simon (Health Services, 2005)	4/07
Robert E. Kullberg (Wastewater Management, 2003)	4/07	Charles E. Skinner (District Attorney, 1999)	3/07
Lloyd J. Lockert (Coroner, 1978)	4/07	Howard A. Westphal (Probation, 1975)	4/07

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of active County employee Randy E. Estigoy, Sheriff (5/07).